

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS


This application is a division of Application Serial No. 10/434,174, (filed on May 9, 2003), which is a division of Application Serial No. 09/785,234, filed on February 20, 2001 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,567,637) which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-039843 (filed February 17, 2000), the entire contents of each of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Claims 28 and 29 are currently pending. Claims 1-27 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 28 and 29 are added, by the present amendment. Applicants respectfully submit that support for new claims 28 and 29 is self-evident from the disclosure as originally filed, including Figures 2, 3A, and 3B, and the originally-filed claims. The specification has been amended to include a cross reference to related applications. No new subject matter is introduced by the foregoing amendment.

Accordingly, examination of the present application on the merits is believed to be in order. An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

James J. Kulbaski
Registration No. 34,648

JJK/CHY:pch

I:\ATTY\CHY\251961US\PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT.DOC